THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The installed annual production capacity is 18,500 tons of bio-fertilizer in the country. At present production is estimated at 10,000 tons per year and adequately meets the demand. The bio-fertilizers are low cost products and the Government provides capital investment subsidy for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units.

Pace of agriculture research

†3527. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to accelerate the pace of research in agricultural field;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has planned to accelerate the pace of research,

(i) for increase in foodgrains production including the production of edible oils,

(ii) for development and promotion of location specific technologies in agriculture,

(iii) for sustainable use of natural resources used in agriculture,

(iv) in Bio-technology, a frontier area of research in agriculture, and

(v) to meet the requirement of milk, meat, egg and fibre through appropriate technologies.

Huge funds are required for achieving the above objectives. The Ministry of Agriculture has requested the concerned Department for allocation of funds at least at the rate of one per cent of Agril. GDP. The objectives will be achieved once the funds are made available for research.

(c) Not applicable.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.